



Definitive Technology BP7000sc SuperTower Speaker System

**“Sound as if you spent three or four times as much
... these new creations are simply extraordinary”**

Praise the Lord and pass the SuperTowers.

by Darryl Wilkinson

***“What a leap
this is ...
Definitive
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I don't know much about the Blind Boys of Alabama. I assume that these soulful gospel songsters (being musical advocates of the truth) are indeed blind, as well as from Alabama. From the pictures on their *Higher Ground* CD, it's pretty clear that they're not boys. However, since they've been singing together for over 60 years, they were no doubt qualifying youngsters when the name stuck for good. (The Blind Boys-to-Men of Alabama doesn't have quite the same ring, either.) What I do know is that listening to *Higher*

Ground's

“People Get Ready” and “The Cross” through Definitive Technology's new over-the-top-of-the-line BP7000sc SuperTowers is such a fundamentally

moving experience (literally) that you could easily find yourself shouting, “Amen, brother!” and “Crank it up!”—even if you're the strictest of the Amish. In fact, plunk the Pope down in front of a pair of these mighty towers belting “You and Your Folks/23rd Psalm,” and it's quite possible that he'll sign up on the spot to be a keynote speaker at the next Southern Baptist convention. These speakers are that good.

***“Speakers that will
be equally welcome
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frat house”***

I've always liked Definitive Technology's approach. They build great-sounding speakers that ordinary folks like you and me can afford. Does that mean that, if you own a pair of fine MartinLogan or Sonus Faber speakers, you should dump them at your next garage sale and buy a pair of Def Techs? Not necessarily. Does it mean that, when you scrape together your leftover cash (after you've paid for day care, signed this month's

mortgage check, filled up a grocery cart, and bought a DVD or two) and buy a pair of Def Tech speakers, they'll sound as if you spent three or four times as much? Damn straight.

***“these speakers
are that good”***

Most of us equate the word value with mid to lower price points, probably because manufacturers promote higher-priced gear on aspects other than value. That puts the BP7000sc SuperTowers in a somewhat difficult predicament. At \$5,000 per pair (\$7,495 for the home theater system that the company sent me), the SuperTowers are certainly up there when it comes to what ordinary schmoes like me can afford, so they'd better be a

A. Talk about an all-in-one package: The BP7000sc has two tweeters, four midrange drivers, and a 14-inch woofer that's powered by an 1,800-watt amp.
B. The BPVX/P is a bipolar surround speaker with an internal subwoofer.
C. The C/L/R3000 center speaker is the lone direct-radiator of the group.





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lot of speaker for the money. In terms of performance, the competition at this price level gets pretty intense, so they'd better sound flippin' awesome, too.

“Gorgeous, softly sculpted ... a much more prestigious look”

What exactly do you get for the money? The BP7000SC is tall, standing 52.5 inches high, but the 8.9-inch width and 16.6-inch depth mean that it takes up only a bit more than a square foot of floor space. You might worry that such a tall, slender speaker would be unstable or easy to knock over. Fear not: The BP7000SC's 100-plus pounds keep it locked solidly

in place, whether you use feet or spikes (both are included). Here's a tip: Lest you want to risk being nailed to the floor like the silver-masked opponent who battled Maximus in *Gladiator*, be careful when you move the BP7000SC with the spikes in place. Your best bet is to position the speaker first and then install the spikes. In trademark Def Tech fashion, a sleek, black sock covers the BP7000SC's private parts, except for the exposed back panel, which contains the speaker connections, LFE input, subwoofer volume control, and amp-cooling vanes. The usual hard-edged end caps are replaced with gorgeous, softly sculpted ones. Even though it's a modest design change, it makes quite a difference, giving the speakers a much more-prestigious look. On the other hand, while the spikes certainly do the job, they're a little wimpy compared with the rest of the speaker.

“You'll be instantly smitten with the life and energy (and bass) that come from the BP7000SCs”

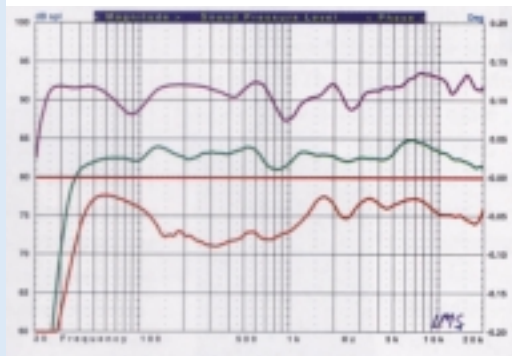
The mirror-imaged, bipolar BP7000SCs include powered subwoofers. Although a 1-inch aluminum dome tweeter and two 6.5-inch bass/midrange drivers reside on both the front and back of the tower, the front and rear drivers use separate and different types of crossovers. The BP7000SC is designed to achieve more-linear frequency- and phase-response curves and to be easier to drive with most amplifiers. The subwoofer section in each BP7000SC

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is the equivalent of a Def Tech SuperCube Reference subwoofer. One 14-inch long-throw SuperCube active woofer is mounted in the tower's relatively acoustically small lower section, along with two 14-inch passive drivers. An 1,800-watt digitally coupled Class D amplifier powers the trembling trio. The SuperCube technology is one of the latest and, in my opinion, most successful methods of producing prodigious amounts of bass in a small enclosure. Just to give you an idea of what a leap this is, Def Tech's previous top-of-the-line BP3000TL incorporates a single 18-inch woofer with a 1,000-watt amp. Don't think that hooking up such a beast is a problem or requires special expertise. You can get all of the benefit of the bipolar technology and the

“From a value standpoint, the BP7000SCs are large, bipolar speakers with beautiful aesthetics and the equivalent of two steroidally enhanced, powered subwoofers”

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HT Labs Measures: Definitive Technology BP7000SC SuperTower Speaker System

This graph shows the quasi-anechoic (employing close-miking of all woofers) frequency response of the BP7000SC L/R (purple trace), C/L/R3000 center channel (green trace), and BPVX/P surround (red trace). All passive loudspeakers were measured at a distance of 1 meter with a 2.83-volt input and scaled for display purposes.

The BP7000SC's listening-window response (a five-point average of axial and ± 15 -degree horizontal and vertical responses) measures +2.50/-3.64 decibels from 200 hertz to 10 kilohertz. The -3dB point is at 22 Hz, and the -6dB point is at 21 Hz. Impedance reaches a minimum of 2.92 ohms at 424 Hz and a phase angle of -37.82 degrees at 154 Hz. Sensitivity averages 91 dB from 500 Hz to 2 kHz.

The C/L/R3000's listening-window response measures +2.39/-1.43 dB from 200 Hz to 10 kHz. An average of axial and ± 15 -degree horizontal responses measures +2.73/-1.65 dB from 200 Hz to 10 kHz. The -3dB point is at 37 Hz, and the -6dB point is at 33 Hz. Impedance reaches a minimum of 2.16 ohms at 310 Hz and a phase angle of -33.93 degrees at 170 Hz. Sensitivity averages 93.5 dB from 500 Hz to 2 kHz.

The BPVX/P's three-face averaged response measures +3.42/-3.02 dB from 200 Hz to 10 kHz. The -3dB point is at 38 Hz, and the -6dB point is at 35 Hz. Impedance reaches a minimum of 2.73 ohms at 457 Hz and a phase angle of -47.74 degrees at 224 Hz. Sensitivity averages 91 dB from 500 Hz to 2 kHz.—AJ

“I have always liked DefTech speakers because they were really fine-sounding speakers that were exceptionally exciting and fun to listen to”

built-in subs simply by connecting regular speaker wire. There’s also an LFE input, and you can biwire the speakers if you so desire.

From a value standpoint, the BP7000SCs are large, bipolar

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Massive, built-in subwoofers**
- **Tall but very slender profile**
- **Beautifully sculpted end caps**

speakers with beautiful aesthetics and the equivalent of two steroidally enhanced, powered subwoofers. By the way, on its own, a SuperCube Reference subwoofer costs \$1,699. That makes the bipolar-speaker part of the BP7000SC ring up at a measly \$800. In terms of your budget, you may not be able to afford the \$5,000-per-pair price tag. In terms of value, though, it’s a tremendous amount of speaker for the money.

“It takes up only a bit more than a square foot of floorspace”

What about the sound? Can these mighty monoliths, with their beer-chugging roots, hold out their pinkies and hang with the champagne-sipping crowd? If you read the first paragraph (you’re not one of those just-bought-the-magazine-for-the-pictures types, are you?), you already know the answer. The BP7000SC’s sonic performance deserves more elab-



D. The BP7000SC has an LFE input for the internal sub, and you can biwire the speaker if you wish.

oration, however, because it shows that Definitive Technology has taken an evolutionary step to the next level. Sure, I’ve always liked Def Tech speakers because they

“It’s a tremendous amount of speaker for the money”

were really fine-sounding speakers that were exceptionally exciting and fun to listen to, but these new creations are simply extraordinary in the way they retain previous models’ boisterous, party-hardy elements while adding a subtler, more-refined aspect. These are quite simply the most sublime Def Tech speakers ever. The idea of a high-end speaker that can grab you by the balls as well as by the brain is a hard concept to get your mind around—like imagining square dancing to Beethoven’s

“They are quite simply the most sublime DefTech speakers ever”

Fifth Symphony or thinking about the Queen of England farting—but there it is. Whether it’s the new differential crossovers, the results of the new Definitive Technology

“a fundamentally moving experience”

Advanced Research Facility (where they use their own special anechoic chamber rather than relying on computerized simulations), or some deal with the devil, I don’t know. The fact is that the BP7000SCs can kick your ass and then pick you up and gently lick your wounds—or vice versa, depending on the music you’re listening to.

“Likewise, the center channel’s extra sonic reach, courtesy of that powered subwoofer, made the opening narration of The Lord of the Rings sound authentically rich and deep”

“Joy,” for example, from Lucinda Williams’ *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road* has a relentless beat that keeps coming at you, and the BP7000SCs don’t let you forget it. It’s quite a contrast with the next track, “Jackson,” which begins with a solo guitar and Williams’ rough vocals. Whereas a moment before, the speakers were loud, brash, and coming at you like a freight train from hell, they instantly settle back into a sweet, sorrowful softness. If you like to rock, Lenny Kravitz’s “American Woman” will make the screws in your sheetrock come out. If



HIGH-PERFORMANCE THEATER

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Parisian-café/Gypsy-jazz music is more your style, you'll be instantly smitten with the life and energy (and bass) that come from the BP7000SCs with "Danse des Esprits" and "Attraction" from Paris Combo's *Attraction* disc. If you're into pre-Enya Celtic music, the sense of space and honest fidelity you'll hear on "Figal's Mach/Halting March" from Ensemble Galilei's *Music in the Great Hall* is especially breathtaking.

"Will make the screws in your sheetrock come out"

Not wanting to leave me wanting when it came to home theater, Definitive Technology sent along their best center channel, the C/L/R 3000, a direct-radiating speaker that includes its own powered subwoofer. They also sent a pair of their best bipolar surround speakers, the BPVX/Ps, which (wouldn't you know) also include powered woofers, to create dramatic accompaniment for the BP7000SCs. Since I'd already given the main speakers a workout with two-channel music, I was prepared for the excellent way the system handled the soft interplay between

"The sense of space and honest fidelity you'll hear ... is especially breathtaking"

"Those BPVX/P surrounds can rock!"

music and Foley sound throughout the beginning of *The Red Violin*. I was totally unprepared, however, for the frightfully powerful blasts that came during *U-571*'s depth charges. I don't know of any other speakers—without help from an external subwoofer—that can generate that kind of explosive bellicosity. Likewise, the center channel's extra sonic reach, courtesy of that powered subwoofer, made the opening narration of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* sound authentically rich and deep, while the BP7000SCs' subs made sure that the sense of foreboding was omnipresent.

"The system's qualities shine—the high energy, the excitement, the bass and the pinpoint accuracy"

Multichannel music may have been the most enchanting, especially *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*. It's a disc that lets all of the system's qualities shine—the high energy, the excitement, the bass, and the pinpoint accuracy—especially on tracks like "Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Brokenhearted." And you haven't heard "PVC IV" from Blue Man

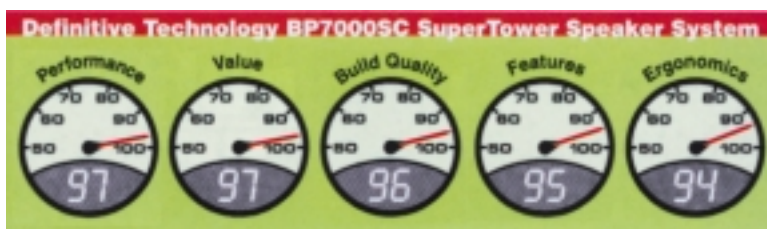
Group until you've heard it through this system. Those BPVX/P surrounds can rock!

"You'll experience a rare treat: truly refined high-end caliber speakers with huevos the size of Volkswagen Beetles"

Not everyone can afford the new BP7000SC speakers (or the entire system). The slightly smaller BP7001SC, which incorporates a SuperCube I sub, is available for \$1,749 each. If you can scrape up the cash, however, you'll experience a rare treat: truly refined, high-end-caliber speakers with huevos the size of Volkswagen Beetles, speakers that will be equally welcome in a symphony conductor's home or the wildest frat house. If Fay Wray and King Kong had hit it off and settled down, the BP7000SCs would be the perfect speakers for them. Just be careful what you listen to, or you may find yourself appreciating types of music you never thought possible.



BP7000SC Super Tower Speaker	\$2,499
C/L/R 3000 Center-Channel Speaker	\$999
BPVX/P Surround Speaker in gloss black or cherry	\$749
in white	\$699
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